

Lambda Letters Project

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Vol. 7, No. 9

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Taking Charge

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

by Boyce Hinman

*Ask not what your country can do for you
—ask what you can do for your country.*

— John F. Kennedy

Our nation seems to be in a state of serious decline and the leaders of many of our nation's institutions are part of the problem. If it's going to get fixed, ordinary people like you and me are going to have to fix it.

Consider the following. President Clinton certainly has his sexual problems and Hilary Clinton recently acknowledged that the president has had a long-term problem with marital infidelity. Recently Clinton was found in contempt of court for lying to a grand jury.

Former Governor Pete Wilson fanned the flames of racial intolerance and then used them to win elections. Our current governor has established quotas for the number of bills he will sign in each subject area, whether or not there are other good bills in those areas.

Recently Catholic Bishop G. Patrick Zeimann resigned after a priest sued the bishop for sexual abuse. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, at least

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Irony Lost on Them, Not Us

In the early 1970s Democrat Bella Abzug, then a member of the House of Representatives from New York City, introduced the first bill to ban sexual orientation-based employment discrimination. The bill would have protected lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. Some form of that bill has been introduced in every Congress since then. Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts is the author of the current version, called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

For years the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has been a sponsor of ENDA. And for as many years it has opposed adding protections for transgendered people to the bill. Openly gay Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) has also consistently opposed the addition of trans people to the bill. Their primary stated reason for their position has been that the addition of trans folk would reduce the bill's chance of passage in Congress.

A state version of ENDA (AB 1001) was introduced in the California Legislature early this year. This bill again provided no protections for the

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

July, 1999	19,025 letters & e-mails
In all of 1999	135,151 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

July, 1999	\$2,058
In all of 1999	\$18,160

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

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Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3½" x 2") \$10 per issue,
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Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor

Standards Enforcement district offices.

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Fresno (209-248-8400)	Long Beach (310-590-5044)
Los Angeles (213-897-4037)	Marysville (916-741-4061)
Oakland* (415-557-7878)	Redding* (415-557-7878)
Sacramento (916-323-4920)	Salinas* (415-557-7878)
San Bernardino (909-383-4333)	San Diego (619-637-5500)
San Francisco* (415-557-7878)	San Jose* (415-557-7878)
Santa Ana (714-558-4111)	Santa Barbara (805-963-1438)
Santa Rosa (707-576-2363)	Stockton (209-948-7770)
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*These cities share an office.

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Locking Up California's Sweatshops

by *Adrienne Lauby & Martha Courtot*

California is a center for this country's garment production, having over five thousand small factories operating in LA alone. It provides high-end dividends for industry leaders, fashion models, and designers, and is built on some of the most shameful abuse of workers—mostly women—in contemporary history.

The garment industry's non-managerial workers are 70 to 80 percent women, many of them immigrants and non-native speakers of English. Its abuses grow from two notorious practices: "squeeze play" subcontracting and "shell game" wage avoidance.

The Squeeze Play: Recent trends toward consolidation and chain stores mean that a smaller number of retailers dominate the market. They control pricing by producing their own private labels and dictating to manufacturers the price of a garment. As the retailers squeeze the manufacturers' profit, the manufacturers, in turn, lower prices to contractors and sub-contractors who sweat their profits out of the garment workers.

The Shell Game: Government agencies charged with investigating and prosecuting underground factories have few resources but nonetheless do sometimes slap an employer with a large judgment for lost wages, lack of insurance coverage and benefits, and violations of workplace rights. In such cases, employers often close down one corporation and start another, hiding behind a corporate shield of limited liability.

Garment industry leaders want only internal policing of these abuses and, when pressed by public outcry, call for larger budgets for enforcement agencies. Employees, labor activists, tax enforcers, and (most recently) student leaders involved in the issue believe that only legal action to prevent these two practices is likely to help.

AB 633, the Omnibus Underground Economy Act, holds retailers and manufacturers liable for contractors who pay employees less than minimum wage and refuse overtime benefits. It also extends the right of individual workers to recover back wages and penalties primarily by giving them the right to use civil actions if the administrative process fails.

Urging Congress to Support HIV/AIDS Programs

by *Carolynn Race,*
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center

As you probably know, more people are living with HIV and AIDS than ever before. As of December 31, 1998, 688,200 people in the United States have been diagnosed with AIDS. Of those, 410,800 have died. It is estimated that 600,000 to 900,000 Americans are living with HIV. In light of those startling statistics, it is imperative that we talk to Congress about the urgent need for continued and increased funding for HIV/AIDS programs throughout the United States.

Congress is currently working to determine the funding levels for appropriations (spending) bills for fiscal year 2000, including HIV/AIDS prevention, research, care, and treatment and housing programs. The Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997, which was put in place to reduce and eliminate the country's deficit, is making their funding decisions much more restrictive. Due to the Agreement's spending caps, Congressional committees have a limited pool of money with which to fund programs, including HIV/AIDS programs.

A message must be sent to Congress that HIV/AIDS is still an emergency—and that the spending caps should be lifted to fund programs adequately. With more people impacted by HIV and the expanding communities, including communities of color and youth at risk for HIV, our nation must not respond with complacency, but with a sense of urgency!

Please send a letter to your Congressman (either the attached sample letter or one of your own) urging them to fund HIV/AIDS programs so that they can meet the increasing need for care, research, and prevention programs as well as drug therapies for all Americans impacted by this disease. Your letters and phone calls can make a difference.

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The Imperial Governor's Views on Bills of Concern to People of Color

by Marty Martinez

It is the end of the legislative year and Governor Davis has left it unclear where he stands with regard to a host of issues and bills of concern to many communities.

He has indicated that he will veto needle-exchange legislation. He has indicated he wants to sign no more than two or three bills for the advancement of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender rights. Finally he vetoed AB 44, a narrowly crafted bill that would have simply affirmed that Proposition 209's ban on affirmative action did not disallow government agencies to engage in targeted outreach efforts. This is in addition to his waffling on defending the remnants of Proposition 187 that were still lingering until recently in the courts.

The governor has had a shaky relationship with California's state legislators so far, indicating in an interview that their job is to implement his electoral mandate. He has interjected himself into the legislative process on a whole host of issues. He has also frustrated lawmakers by failing to make his intentions clear on many bills.

Over the past legislative session, Lambda Letters Project has taken positions on several issues of concern to people of color and sought letters from our members on these topics. It is unclear what Governor Davis' position is on most of these bills. Therefore, instead of choosing one bill, we are asking you to sign and send the governor the enclosed letter, which advocates for passing all of the bills of concern to communities of color that Lambda Letters Project endorses.

Hopefully it will make some difference to this very difficult governor.



Supporting a Statewide Domestic Partner Registry

by Boyce Hinman

Assemblymember Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) has introduced an important bill (AB 26) that establishes a statewide domestic partner registry. Under her bill, same-gender couples would have the right to register as domestic partners. The bill would also guarantee hospital visitation rights for domestic partners except when such visits would endanger the patient's health or the patient has requested that such visits not occur. The existence of a domestic partner registry would probably encourage private employers to offer domestic partner benefits to their employees.

AB 26 would define the term "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State. However, in most cases, the registration process would actually occur at the offices of county clerks in each county in California. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.

Curiously, during last fall's election campaign, candidate Gray Davis said he would not sign domestic partner legislation unless it included straight couples who chose not to marry as well as same-gender couples. So the original version of AB 26 did allow opposite-gender couples to register as domestic partners. However, at the insistence of Governor Davis, opposite-gender couples were later removed from the bill. At the same time, language was added to the bill to allow state and local governments to offer domestic partner health benefits to their employees.

No legislator seems willing to introduce legislation to allow same-gender marriage in California and Governor Davis has actually said he would veto such legislation if it got to his desk. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to the well-being of same-gender families that the legislature enact domestic partner registry as a way of obtaining the family rights and responsibilities that legally married couples take for granted. Please write to Governor Davis urging him to sign AB 26 when it gets to his desk.

September Legislative Update: Crossing the Finish Line

The State Legislature has encountered several drop-dead dates. With few exceptions (those approved by a vote of the legislators), any bill failing to meet those deadlines are dead for this year. Some of the pertinent deadlines are as follows:

- ♦ **June 4:** All bills had to be approved by their house of origin.
- ♦ **August 27:** All bills had to be approved by all necessary committees in their second house.
- ♦ **September 10:** All bills must be approved by both houses of the State Legislature and sent to Governor Davis.
- ♦ **October 10:** Governor must sign or veto all bills.

The following list shows the current status of the bills we have been following. You will note an asterisk (*) before some bill numbers. These bills have been amended in their second house. If the second house approves these bills, they will have to go back to their house of origin for that house to agree to the changes. Only then can these bill go to the governor.

If you have Internet access, we suggest you keep abreast of the latest news on these bills by visiting our Web page at www.lambdaletters.org, and clicking on the Legislative Update button. We update the list on our Web page at least twice a month.

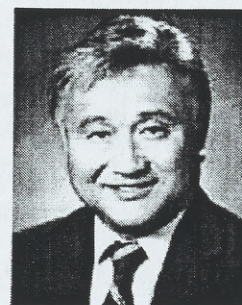
HIV/AIDS Issues

***AB 16** (Mike Honda, D-San Jose)

Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded in home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raise. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties. **Note:** The budget just passed allows the state to pay 50 cents of any pay raise. The author is still pushing this bill to get the state to pay 50 percent of any pay raise.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on July 12. Hearing cancelled at author's request. No new hearing date set yet

LLP Position: Support.



Mike Honda

AB 103 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to implement a unique identifier system in order to conduct HIV surveillance and improve data collection while maximizing confidentiality protections.

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Deborah A. Brooks

Certified Public Accountant

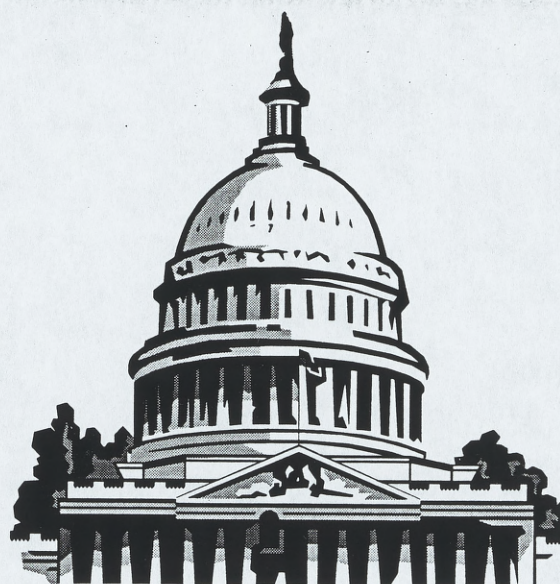


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September Legislative Update

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Status: Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Put in that committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support

***AB 142** (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that every health care service plan provide medical care in accordance with accepted medical practices and provide emergency health care services and to ensure confidentiality of the medical information of an enrollee. Plans must provide access to a wide variety of primary health care providers and specialty health care providers to ensure that the enrollee is able to choose a qualified doctor or other health care provider.

Status: Approved by the Senate Insurance Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 25th.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 155 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow people with AIDS who return to work—but whose income is below 250 percent of the federal poverty standard—to continue to receive Medi-Cal benefits.

Status: Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Put on that committee's suspense calendar for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support.



Carole Migden

***AB 217** (Scott Wildman, D-Glendale)

Purpose: Language about requiring Medi-Cal health care providers to add new drugs to their HIV/AIDS drug formularies has been removed from the bill. AB 217 does require Medi-Cal providers to inform their HIV-positive patients of the steps, if any, that have been taken to refer them to physicians with substantial experience in treating AIDS. It also requires the state to pay Medi-Cal providers enough for caring

for HIV-positive patients, in order to enable those providers to attract the services of physicians qualified to treat HIV/AIDS.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Passed by the Senate Insurance Committee and sent to Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 518 (Kerry Mazzoni, D-San Rafael)

Purpose: To permit local jurisdictions to establish legal clean needle and syringe exchange programs in California to reduce the spread of AIDS and other diseases spread by the shared use of needles.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate.

Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Was not heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Was sent to the Senate floor approval.

LLP Position: Support.



Kerry Mazzoni

AB 851 (Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To expand the AIDS prevention education requirement in grades 7–12 to include instruction in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and to require related instructional materials to be medically accurate and free of race, gender, and ethnic bias.

Status: Passed by the Senate Education Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Put in that committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Positions: Support.

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September Legislative Update

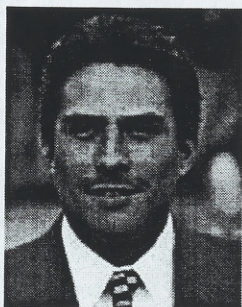
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***AB 1047** (Marco Firebaugh, D-Huntington Park)

Purpose: To require that the state make new AIDS medications, provided under the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), available to patients within 30 days of being notified that the drugs have been approved by the FDA for the treatment of AIDS.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a hearing on August 23rd.

LLP Position: Support.



*Marco
Firebaugh*

***SB 77** (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law says a worker's family may apply for a worker's compensation death benefit when he or she dies from a job-related accident or illness. The claim must be submitted within a specified time from the onset of the job-related illness or accident. A longer time is allowed in deaths from asbestosis because of the typically longer time from exposure to asbestos and death from asbestosis. SB 77 says that HIV and AIDS have a similarly long period of development and so should have a similarly long time during which a claim for a worker's compensation death benefit may be claimed.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent back to the Senate for concurrence with the changes made in the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

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***SB 1258** (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require California to solicit approval from the federal government for California to provide Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are HIV-positive, but who do not have AIDS. Current federal regulations limit the provision of Medi-Cal to people who have AIDS or who are otherwise disabled.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Health Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Put in that committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support.



Richard Polanco

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Issues

***AB 26** (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships. The bill had also required group health care insurance plans that offer coverage of employees and their spouses to also offer coverage to employees and their domestic partners. This feature was dropped at the insistence of Governor Davis.

Status: Passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate Rules Committee for probable referral to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 107 (Wally Knox, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To authorize the state and local governments to provide health care benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.

Status: Passed by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Put in that committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support.

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September Legislative Update

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***AB 208** (Wally Knox, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide that the penalty for a defendant who is found guilty of murder in the first degree is imprisonment in state prison for life without the possibility of parole if the victim was intentionally killed because of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—or because of the defendant's perception of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—and this allegation has been charged and found to be true.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Passed by the Senate Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for hearing, tentatively, on August 30th.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 222 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica)

Purpose: Called the Dignity for All Students Act. Would amend the California Education Code to add "sexual orientation" to those sections that now protect students from other forms of discrimination. It would specifically bar sexual orientation discrimination in public education, including student programs and activities, athletics, curricula, employment, and financial aid.

Status: Passed all necessary Assembly committees. Failed by one vote on the Assembly floor. May be heard again next January. The following eight Democratic Assembly Members voted against the bill: Dennis Cardoza, Lou Correa, Dean Florez, Sally Havice, Mike Machado, Sarah Reyes, Nel Soto, and Carl Washington. People willing to join an effort to persuade these legislators to change their vote on

AB 222 should contact Lambda Letters at (916) 965-6851 or LambdaLP@aol.com

LLP Position: Support.



VICKI PFINGST

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AB 1001 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employment and housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and scheduled, tentatively, for a vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 23rd.

LLP Position: Support



Antonio
Villaraigosa

***SB 75** (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To enact the Domestic Partnership Act of 1999, which would define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed all necessary Assembly committees and sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

***SB 118** (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require employers to grant family and medical leave to employees who need to care for their domestic partners.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed all necessary Assembly committees and sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

Person of Color Issues

***AB 63** (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D-National City)

Purpose: To create an Office of Border Health, which would act to increase cooperation between Mexican and California/US health authorities in tracking disease, monitoring the health of persons along the border region, and would convene a task force of community stakeholders to help develop a strategic plan to address the health concerns in the border region.

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September Legislative Update

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Status: Passed by the Assembly. Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Put in that committee's suspense file until late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 44 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To affirm that the laws of California, including the restrictions on affirmative action, do not prevent governmental agencies from engaging in focused outreach and recruitment of minority groups and women if any group is under represented in entry level positions or in an educational institution.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly and sent to the governor. Vetoed by the governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training develop and

disseminate training for police officers, including instruction on racial and cultural diversity, in order to foster mutual respect and cooperation between law enforcement and members of all racial and cultural groups. This bill additionally would require the commission to develop guidelines that California law enforcement agencies would be required to adopt for the purpose of establishing race neutral criminal profiles.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a vote on August 25th.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 78 (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Department of Justice to issue an annual report containing the criminal statistics of the preceding calendar year. This bill would require this annual report to contain



Kevin Murray

Continued on page 10

the news resource of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community

OUTWORD

newsmagazine

The staff and management of Outword Newsmagazine fully supports the work and goals of Lambda Letters Project and offers its profound gratitude to the volunteers and staff for making those goals a reality.

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September Legislative Update

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information about the race, ethnicity, approximate age, and gender of the people stopped in traffic stops.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Put in the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 82 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To provide that any alien who is otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal services, but who does not meet specified requirements relating to residency status (undocumented alien), is eligible for medically necessary pregnancy-related services.

Status: Passed the Senate and to Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Health Committee. Put on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 613 (Hilda Solis, D-El Monte)

Purpose: To make permanent the Office of Multicultural Health within the California Department of Health Services.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Health Committee. Put in the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support



Hilda Solis

Women's Issues

***AB 39** (Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys)

Purpose: To require individual and group health care service plans to cover the cost of FDA-approved prescription contraceptives.

Status: Passed the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Passed by the Senate Insurance and Appropriations Committees. Sent to the floor of the Senate for a final vote by that house.

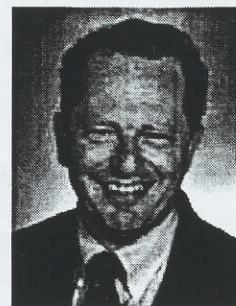
LLP Position: Support.

***AB 40** (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Also to require the State Department of Health Services to administer the program only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Put in the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file for a vote in late August or early September.

LLP Position: Support.



Howard Wayne

***AB 633** (Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: Would hold retailers and manufacturers liable for contractors who pay employees less than minimum wage and refuse overtime benefits. It also extends the right of individual workers to sue for back wages and penalties if the administrative process fails to resolve the situation.

Status: Is in the suspense file of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 41 (Jackie Speier, D-Daly City)

Purpose: To require disability insurance providers that cover prescription medications to include FDA-approved prescription contraceptives in their list of covered medications.

Status: Passed the Senate. Passed by the Assembly Health and Appropriations Committees. Sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.



Jackie Speier

Continued on page 11

September Legislative Update

Continued from page 10

SB 56 (Hilda Solis, D–El Monte)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from punishing employees who take time off to testify in court in domestic abuse cases, as long as employees give reasonable notice to the employer, prior to taking time off, that he or she is required to appear in court to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of a domestic violence victim or his or her child.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Approved by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

***SB 193** (Joe Baca, D–San Bernardino)

Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer for sale breast cancer license plates to be sold at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.



Joe Baca

Status: Was passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Approved by the Assembly Transportation Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on July 7th. Hearing delayed. No new date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

Irony Lost on Them, Not Us

Continued from page 1

trans community. The same reasons have been given for excluding them from the state bill.

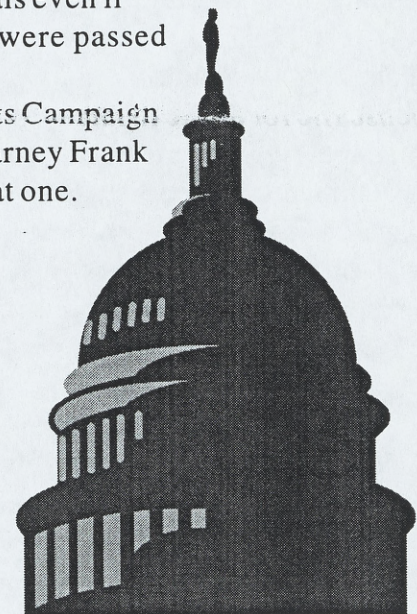
Recent surveys have added a startling and ironic twist to the debates on these bills. The survey results suggest that many lesbians, gays, and bisexuals will not be protected from discrimination unless laws protecting *them and trans folk* are passed.

Why is that?

A survey was taken last year at the Creating Change Conference, an event sponsored each year by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). The survey was done jointly by the NGLTF, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and GenderPAC, a transgender-rights organization. The survey results showed that 57 percent of the gay, lesbian, or bisexual (GLB) respondents had experienced employment discrimination. Of those, 37 percent said that one basis of that discrimination had been their gender expression, irrespective of their sexual orientation. To put it bluntly, they lost jobs because they were too butch or fem.

Transgender activist and neurobiologist Dr. Sarah Fox did a follow-up survey in Columbus, Ohio. Her survey found that 76 percent of GLB respondents who reported a history of job discrimination indicated the discrimination was based in part on gender expression. Again, they were too butch or too fem. This suggests that employers could legally continue to discriminate against many lesbians, gays, and bisexuals even if ENDA and AB 1001 were passed in their current forms.

The Human Rights Campaign and legislators like Barney Frank should think about that one.



Taking Charge

Continued from page 1

five US Catholic bishops and archbishops have resigned amid sexual scandals since 1990.

Religious conservatives persuaded the Kansas State Board of Education to eliminate the teaching of evolution in Kansas public schools.

Early this year, Henry J. Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention, was sent to prison for stealing funds from his denomination.

Recently, the US Department of Education reported that over 9,000 children had been expelled from public schools in the past two years for bringing guns to school. The Department spokesperson was elated because the figure for 1998 was 3,930 down from 5,624 in 1997. Even so it doesn't sound good to me.

Then there was the killing of a gay couple in Reading, and the possibly gay soldier in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Recently there have been arsons at three synagogues in Sacramento and the shooting at the Jewish children's day camp in Southern California.

Can ordinary people like us really do anything about all this? Actually, ordinary citizens have long been the agents of very beneficial changes in our society. With all due respect to the leaders of our community, we have never had queer leaders with the national stature of Presidents Kennedy, Lincoln, or Washington. Yet look at the changes we have wrought in just the last 50 years.

In the 1950s the police regularly beat up lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered folk. Now many of their police departments employ openly gay officers. In the 1950s the police and newspapers together regularly published the names of people arrested in gay bar raids in the hopes that the people arrested would lose their jobs. Now eleven states ban sexual orientation-based job discrimination. In earlier years, the concept of gay families was inconceivable. Now many employers provide domestic partner health benefits to their employees. For the most part, these changes occurred because enough relatively ordinary people worked hard to get them.

So what can we ordinary people do? First we can join and support our community's civil rights groups. There really is strength in unity. Second, we need to be very demanding of politicians and political parties. If they refuse to meet those demands, we should abandon them and find better ones. As long as politicians think

Women's Issue

Continued from page 3

Retailers and manufacturers exert strong control over the production of their goods. They provide the factories with fabric, determine exactly what will be made, closely monitor the quality of the clothing as it is being sewn, and dictate the price that will be paid for each piece.

There is a direct relationship between the retailer/manufacturers and sweatshop contractors; there should be a shared responsibility for the illegal and abusive labor practices so prevalent in the industry. Please write to Governor Davis in support of AB 633.

Don't Know Who Represents You?

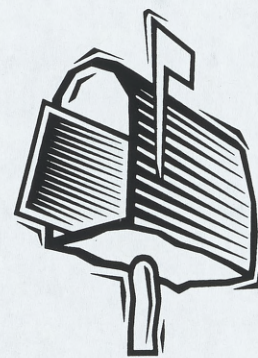
Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

we will support them—no matter what—they won't feel the need to change.

Third, we need to take a serious look at the influence wielded by religious institutions in our society and seriously consider ways to curtail that influence when it is detrimental to the well-being of our community. This is essentially what the Protestant reformers in Europe of the 1500s and 1600s did when faced by a Catholic Church that had grown rich and corrupt.

We must also be very demanding of the leaders of our own community. They too should meet the just demands of a queer community. For example, I think it is deplorable that the Human Rights Campaign has consistently refused to support adding protections for trans folk to the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) and that trans folk were left out of AB 1001, California's version of ENDA.

In the last analysis, ordinary folk can bring about beneficial change by being active and involved and letting all the power brokers know that we're here, we're queer, and we are taking charge!



A Case of Second-Class Citizenship

Currently two pending state bills would allow state and local governments in California to offer domestic partner health benefits to their employees. The domestic partner of an employee of a state or local government would be able to get health insurance coverage through the employee's health plan. The two bills offering this benefit are AB 26 (Migden) and AB 107 (Knox).

However, each bill has a significant limitation to the benefit. They each say that if the employee dies, the domestic partner will no longer qualify for health insurance under the employees' health plan. With heterosexual married couples, the surviving spouse is usually allowed to stay on the deceased employee's health plan.

This provision in the bills could have serious consequences for a surviving domestic partner. His or her income may be limited and he or she may not have access to affordable health care to replace the coverage being lost. In this day of HIV/AIDS the sad reality is that a significant number of deaths in our community are related to HIV. In such cases, the surviving partner is liable to be HIV-positive and in need of good health care insurance.

The offices of Wally Knox and Carole Migden say that the provision terminating domestic partner health benefits upon the death of the employee was necessary to get the bill passed. Nevertheless, it is one more example of queer folk being treated as second-class citizens.

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor

Standards Enforcement district offices.

Bakersfield (805-395-2710)	Eureka* (415-557-7878)
Fresno (209-248-8400)	Long Beach (310-590-5044)
Los Angeles (213-897-4037)	Marysville (916-741-4061)
Oakland* (415-557-7878)	Redding* (415-557-7878)
Sacramento (916-323-4920)	Salinas* (415-557-7878)
San Bernardino (909-383-4333)	San Diego (619-637-5500)
San Francisco* (415-557-7878)	San Jose* (415-557-7878)
Santa Ana (714-558-4111)	Santa Barbara (805-963-1438)
Santa Rosa (707-576-2363)	Stockton (209-948-7770)
Van Nuys (818-901-5312)	Ventura (805-654-4538)

*These cities share an office.

Organizational Events

Do you belong to an organization? If so, does that organization ever do fund-raising events for worthy causes? Would it be willing to do so?

The Lambda Letters Project is growing in size and effectiveness. Last year we delivered over 120,000 of your letters and messages to elected officials. This year, in just the first seven months, we delivered over 135,000 letters and messages. We will probably hit 160,000 by year's end and that would mean we will have delivered over one-half million of your letters and messages since our founding in 1988.

Originally we provided our members with just sample letters and an informal cover letter. Since then we have added a professional, informative newsletter, a very active e-mail alert system, a letter to the editor program, and a highly effective Web page.

All of this costs money and more money. You can help us grow and become even more useful to the community by asking your organization to do a fundraiser for the Lambda Letters Project. Feel free to contact us if you need more details.

it's movie time

This year's film festival has been expanded to six nights! On Friday, October 1st, we are kicking off the festival with a "First Night Gala" featuring a catered reception and a showing of the cult classic "Hairspray." On Saturday, October 2nd, we're showing a series of documentaries and a feature, "Violet's Visit." Programming continues on Wednesday, October 6th with Shorts Program I. Shorts Program II will be shown on Thursday, October 7th. Friday Night, October 8th, we will be showing a short film, "Maid of Honor" along with a feature film, "Outtakes." Following the screening, SIGLFF is pleased to announce that the filmmakers for "Outtakes" will be on hand to participate in a question/answer period. On Saturday, we'll be concluding this year's festival with a short film by Sacramento filmmaker Esther Ritter, "Reel Love," and a feature film, "Rescuing Desire." Tickets are only \$8.

CREST THEATRE

1013 K STREET, SACRAMENTO

Tickets available at

The Open Book and Lioness Books

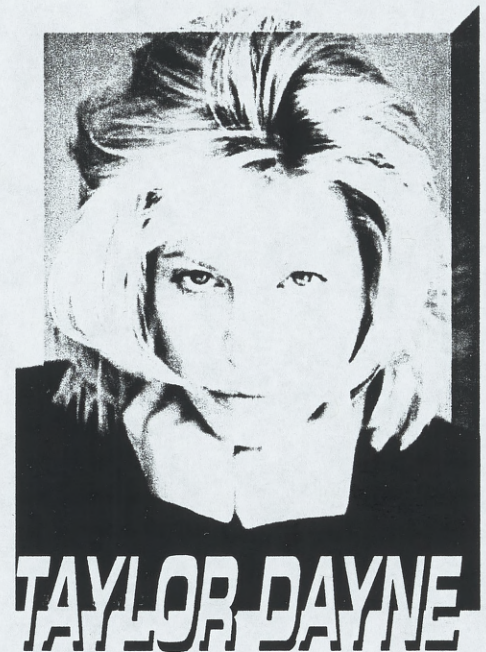
For more information:

689-3284 or www.bluedesertproductions.com/siglff

1999 SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL
GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Gay Day

Waterworld USA



SUNDAY • OCTOBER 10th 1999

\$20 Advance Tickets • At FACES, The DEPOT, Open Book

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Help Us Rescue A.B. 222

A.B. 222 would prohibit sexual orientation based discrimination in California's public schools and force schools to crack down on gay bashing. The bill failed by just one vote in the California Assembly on June 4, 1999. The eight Democrats listed below voted against the bill.

A.B. 222 can be called up for a vote again on the Assembly floor in January of 2000. Lambda Letters plans to have a massive letter writing campaign to reverse the votes of the eight Democrats when A.B. 222 is voted on again in January. We delivered over 116,000 letters in the first six months of this year. With help from the community, we can rescue A.B. 222.

Do you have friends living in the following ZIP Codes? If so. Please encourage them to consider joining Lambda Letters so they can help us rescue A.B. 222. For further information they can contact us at:

The Lambda Letters Project
6212 Silverton Way
Carmichael, CA 95608

(916) 965-6851
LambdaLP@aol.com

(Any ZIP Codes printed in **bold print** are found in more than one Assembly District.)

Michael Machado - A.D. 17

(Includes the center of the San Joaquin Valley including Stockton.)

95202 95203 95204 95206
95207 95210 95219 95230
95231 95320 95330 95366
95205 95209 95212 95215
95236 95336 95361 95376

Dennis Cardoza - A.D. 26

(Includes all of Merced County and the southern part of Modesto in Stanislaus County.)

93635 93665 95301 95303
95307 95313 95315 95317
95322 95324 95328 95333
95334 95340 95342 95348
95360 95363 95365 95368
95388 **93620 95326 95336**
95350 95351 95354 95356
95376 95380

Dean Florez - A.D. 30

(Contains the southwestern part of the San Joaquin Valley. It includes all of Kings County and parts of Fresno, Kern and Madera counties.)

93202 93203 93204 93206
93210 93212 93224 93230
93234 93239 93241 93245

93249 93250 93251 93252
93263 93266 93268 93276
93280 93606 93608 93622
93624 93630 93640 93652
93660 93668 **93215 93242**
93301 93304 93305 93306
93307 93309 93311 93312
93313 93609 93610 93620
93631 93637 93656 93706
93722 93725

Sarah Reyes - A.D. 31

(Is in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Includes parts of the cities of Fresno, Visalia and Tulare.)

93201 93218 93219 93227
93256 93261 93270 93272
93282 93615 93616 93618
93625 93646 93647 93648
93662 93666 93673 93701
93702 93721 93728 **93215**
93242 93257 93274 93277
93291 93609 93631 93654
93656 93657 93703 93705
93706 93722 93725 93727

Carl Washington - A.D. 52

(Includes Watts, Gardena Lynwood and part of Compton in Los Angeles County.)

90002 90059 90222 90247
90262 90273 **90001 90003**
90044 90061 90220 90221

90248 90249 90805

Sally Havice - A.D. 56

(Includes the cities of Lakewood, Cerritos, Bellflower, Downey, and the northern part of Long Beach in Los Angeles County.)

90240 90241 90242 90706
90712 90713 90715 **90623**
90701 90716 90805 90806
90807

Nel Soto - A.D. 61

(Includes portions of eastern Los Angeles County and Western San Bernardino County.)

91709 91710 91761 91762
91763 91764 **91730 91766**
91767 91768 91786

Lou Correa - A.D. 69

(Is In Central Orange County.)

92640 92643 92668 92701
92703 92704 92705 92706
92707 92708 92801 92802
92805 92840 92843 92868

*Lambda Letters Needs You!
Can You Help Us Out?*

★★★ IN CLAREMONT ★★★
Can you spare 2 hours on October 9th?

We need help running our booth at Claremont's Pride Festival on that date.

Volunteers needed to:

Persuade people to sign our letters
Invite folks to join Lambda Letters
Count signed letters
Address envelopes

It's a cost free way to support your community.
Please volunteer. Call Scott at: 909-985-7652.

★★★ IN ALL OF CALIFORNIA ★★★

*Please Please Please
Help us Rescue A.B. 222*

Sheila Kuehl's Dignity For All Students Act (A.B. 222)
Lost by just one vote in the Assembly last June.

Eight Democrats voted against it.

The bill can be brought up for a vote again in January and we hope to rescue it
by persuading one or more of the eight to vote for A.B. 222.

To do this, we need to flood those eight Assembly Members with mail from people in their
districts. But currently we have a total of 19 Lambda Letters members in all eight of their
districts combined.

Please review the other side of this page. If you have a friend living in one of the ZIP codes
shown their, your friend may live in one of the eight key districts.

Please persuade your friends who live in those districts to join Lambda Letters.

In that way we may yet create a flood of mail to the eight key legislators and persuade them
change their votes on A.B. 222.